VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

A copy of the Vice Chancellor’s Report to Council can be accessed from the following website:


RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor made a presentation to the members on the University’s Research Development Strategy. Members noted that the Griffith University Strategic Plan 2013-2017 committed the University to the development of research areas which by 2017 would be acknowledged as world class (top 200) and a small number that would be considered world leading (top 20).

Members considered the progress report ‘Areas of Strategic Investment. Return on investment as at 31 December 2013.’ The detailed assessment of return on investment of the original eight Areas of Strategic Investment (ASI) was noted together with the preliminary assessment of the additional four ASI.

It was noted that the annual assessment of return on investment flowing from the Areas of Strategic Investment (ASI) program demonstrated strong financial returns with respect to research income from the original eight ASI.

Members noted that research publication returns over the life of the program had continued to strengthen. It was noted that the emerging evidence indicated that the ASI program was making research at Griffith increasingly visible both internationally and nationally.

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor advised the members that the positive impact of the ASI program on the University’s standing on global rankings was clear and unambiguous. Members noted the following outcomes had been realised as a result of the University’s research strategy:

- Griffith secured a top 400 placing in the prestigious Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) in 2012, and retained the position in 2013. This outcome was attributed to the appointment of a Highly Cited researcher within the ASI in Water Science, and also the publication of more research outputs in the prestigious Nature and Science journals. Nearly all of the articles recently published in the Nature family of journals were from an ASI.
- The University achieved a top 400 ranking in 2013 (383rd) on the Leiden CWTS ranking.
- Griffith was now ranked in the top 200 globally for Social Sciences on the ARWU, Leiden, QS, University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP) and National Taiwan University rankings – one of seven Australian universities to achieve this distinction, and the only non-G08 university.
- The University was ranked 9th in Australia for research publication points submitted to the Higher Education Research Data Collection (2011 and 2012). This was attributed to the estimated 5% per annum publication boost provided by the ASI program.
• The combination of the ASI program (and the Next Phase program that preceded it) conducted within the environment of Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) had produced increased Australian Competitive Grant outcomes and improved citation rates for Griffith.

Members noted that given the success of the ASI research strategy, continued investment in the ASI program was proposed for the period 2014-2018. It was noted that the forward investment strategy was aimed at consolidating gains and enhancing research focus relevant to each ASI.

UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH FOR AUSTRALIA (ERA)

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor provided an update to members on Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA). Members were advised about the key dates for ERA 2015. Members noted that the University’s submission would be of significant scale, and that the 2015 ERA process would be transparent with regard to submission volume. It was noted that the University’s research outputs and income had substantially increased since the ERA 2012 submission.

Members noted that an ERA 2015 reference group had been established to have oversight of the assembly of the submission data and that the primary assembly of data would be undertaken by academic advisers in conjunction with the Office for Research.

Members noted that ERA outcomes would become available in late 2015 and would be subsequently reported to Council.

UPDATE ON ONLINE STRATEGY

The Academic Provost updated members on the University’s online strategy.

2013 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Council received the certified 2013 Annual Financial Statements and noted that the Statements had been tabled in Parliament on 31 March 2014.

Members noted the tabled letter dated 31 March 2014 from the Hon John-Paul Langbroek, Minister for Education, Training and Employment commending Griffith for its considerable achievements, as outlined in the University’s 2013 Annual Report.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Council resolved to endorse the 2014 Corporate Risk Register (2014/0007001).

The Vice President (Corporate Services) presented the draft 2014 Corporate Risk Register (2014/0007001) to Council and provided an overview of the annual review process. Members noted that Executive Group had determined that no changes were required to any of the nine corporate risks as a result of the annual review. It was noted that additional controls were listed in the register by Executive Group with regard to:

• Management of disruptive technologies,
• Promotion of policies related to staff integrity, and
• Strengthening of IT security controls.
It was also noted that the 2014 Corporate Risk Register had been updated to ensure that
- Risk ratings corresponded with the new heat map approved by Council 3/2013;
- Executive position titles listed in the register reflected recent changes approved by Council.

2014 DOMESTIC STUDENT ADMISSIONS

Council considered the report ‘Outcomes of 2014 Domestic Admission Round as at 28 February 2014.’

It was noted that a good outcome had been achieved and that the University was over target for domestic student enrolments and slightly under target for international student enrolments but that overall, the University was over target for enrolments.

REVIEWS OF GRIFFITH INTERNATIONAL; DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS; SCHOOL OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY; SCHOOL OF BIOMOLECULAR AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES; STUDENT ADMINISTRATION

In accordance with the University Reviews Policy, independent reviews were undertaken of the current activities and future plans of Griffith International, the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics, the School of Applied Psychology, the School of Biomolecular and Physical Sciences, and Student Administration.

Council endorsed the review reports and implementation plans.

SENIOR APPOINTMENT

Council resolved to offer Professor Paul Mazerolle a further appointment as Pro Vice Chancellor (Arts, Education and Law) for the period 5 October 2014 to 4 October 2019.

GOLD COAST ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council resolved to make the following appointments to the Gold Coast Advisory Council: Ms Ann Robilotta-Glenister (re-appointed), and Mr John Howe and Ms Janelle Manders for a term of office commencing immediately up to 31 December 2016, and Ms Sharyn Donald for a term of office commencing immediately up to 31 December 2015.

MINUTES OF APPRECIATION

Council noted that Professor Marilyn McMeniman AM, Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost and Professor Sue Spence, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) had attended their last meeting of Council in December 2013.

Council resolved to adopt minutes of appreciation in recognition of the outstanding contributions of Professors McMeniman and Spence to the development of the University in their respective Deputy Vice Chancellor roles.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Council resolved to confer the title of “Professor Emeritus” on Professors Marilyn McMeniman AM, Sue Spence, Liz Fulop and Rodney Topor in recognition of their distinguished service to scholarship and to the University.
PROPOSED CHANGE OF NAME: SCHOOL OF BIOMOLECULAR AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Council **resolved to approve** a change of name of the School of Biomolecular and Physical Sciences to the *School of Natural Sciences* with effect from 1 July 2014.

YARRANLEA LIMITED LEASE ARRANGEMENT

Council **resolved to approve** a lease of the premises at the Mt Gravatt campus to Yarranlea Limited as detailed in the document *‘Proposed Lease to Yarranlea Limited – Old Yarranlea State School site on Mt Gravatt campus’* (2014/0007005).

POLICY CHANGES

Council **resolved to approve** the following amended policy documents with immediate effect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Brief Description of Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Awards, Programs, Nomenclature and Abbreviations: Schedule of Abbreviations for University Awards (new document no. 2014/0001028)</td>
<td>Amendments to include new fields of study abbreviations, and to change the approving authority of the schedule from Council to Academic Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approving Authorities for University Policies (new document no. 2014/0007017)</td>
<td>Amendments to update changes to policy titles previously approved by the Academic Committee and to include new policies previously approved by Council, the Academic Committee and Executive Group, and to update changed terminology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code of Conduct (new document no. 2014/0007012)</td>
<td>The additional words ‘or serious misconduct’ were inserted in clause 3 ‘How are breaches of the Code addressed.’</td>
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<td>Conferring the Title Professor Emeritus Procedure (new document no 2013/0002829)</td>
<td>Amendments were made to provide guidance to staff about the rights and obligations of a professor emeritus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegation of Authority to Sign Contracts and Agreements: Schedule of Delegations (new document no 2014/0007002)</td>
<td>A new document format was approved together with a number of substantive changes to clauses - deletions, amendments, and addition of new clauses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement of Memorials on Site Policy (new document no 2014/0007018)</td>
<td>Amendments were made to clarify the circumstances in which a request to place a memorial on site may be made and to change the approval arrangements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students with Disabilities Policy</td>
<td>Amendments were made to reflect legislative</td>
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<tr>
<td>(new document no 2014/0007019)</td>
<td>changes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of University Name Policy</td>
<td>The reference in the policy to the Campus Life Board was removed given that the Board was disestablished.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(new document no 2014/0007010_2013/0006295 revised)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of University Seal Policy</td>
<td>Amendments were made to remove obsolete references to statutes and legislation, to remove outdated witnessing requirements with regard to application of the seal, and to change the approving authority from the Vice President (Corporate Services) to Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(new document no 2014/0007011)</td>
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**APRIL 2014**